

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, in the Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, the Examiner did not attach an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form references that were mailed to the PTO on October 8, 2003. As such, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these references have been considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1 - 4 and 7, as best understood in view of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mino et al. (JP 06124-843). The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mino et al. (JP 06124-843) in view of Fujino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,002). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Both Mino and Fujino fail to teach or render obvious all of the elements of the Applicant's claims, either individually or in combination. In independent claims 1 and 8, the Applicant claims a transformer constructed of a pair of inductors, each of the inductors having an at least one trench with a pair of walls and a bottom. The pair of inductors each have a conductor defining a signal path along the pair of walls and the bottom of the at least one trench and a magnetic layer defining a signal path along the pair of walls and the bottom of the at least one trench, the conductor and the magnetic layer running parallel to one another.


Mino fails to teach the elements of the Applicant's claimed transformer. The conductors 24 and 25 of Mino in Figures 4a and 4b do not define signal paths over the pair of walls and the bottom of the trenches 28. In contrast, the conductors are horizontal planes within the regions between the trenches 28. Additionally, although the magnetic layer 27 defines a path over the walls and bottom of the trenches 28, neither conductor 24 nor conductor 25 run parallel to the magnetic layer 27. Fujino also fails to teach these elements and in contrast teaches a circuit substrate without trenches and where the wiring sheet and the magnetic material are only in horizontal planes. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 1 and 8 and the claims 2-4, 6-7 that depend upon and incorporate the limitations of claim 1, and the claims 9-11 and 13-17 that depend upon and incorporate the limitations of claim 8, are not anticipated or rendered obvious in light of Mino and Fujino, either individually or in combination.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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